

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 32, 34, 35, and 37, and cancel claims 1-31, 38, and 39 such that the status of the claims is as follows:

1-31. (Cancelled)

32. (Currently amended) A needleless luer access connector, comprising:

a housing having a top portion defining an inlet opening, a channel defined by at least one sidewall extending from the inlet opening and having a cross section, and a bottom portion defining an outlet opening extending from the channel;

a septum disposed in the housing, the septum having a proximal portion, a medial portion having an external surface and a cross section less than a cross section of the top portion and less than the cross section of the channel, and a distal portion defining a substantially circular cross section in its unstressed condition;

a longitudinal slit extending through the septum from the proximal portion through the medial portion and into the distal portion; and

wherein the channel has a substantially elliptical cross section having a major axis and a minor axis along at least a distal portion thereof and the distal portion of the septum is located in and restrained by [[the]] a distal portion of the channel such that the distal portion of the septum is biased into a substantially elliptical shape by the distal portion of the channel and a portion of the longitudinal slit in the distal portion of the septum is closed.

33. (Original) The needleless luer access connector of claim 32 wherein the longitudinal slit is defined by a pair of transversely extending walls of the septum which are parallel to a transverse axis of the slit and wherein the transverse axis of the slit is substantially aligned with the major axis.

34. (Currently amended) The needleless luer access device of claim 33 wherein ~~at least~~ the portion of the slit ~~adjacent to the bottom~~ in the distal portion of the septum is open in the unstressed condition.

35. (Currently amended) A needleless luer access connector, comprising:

a housing having a top portion defining an inlet opening, a channel defined by at least one sidewall extending from the inlet opening and having a cross section, and a bottom portion defining an outlet opening extending from the channel;

a septum disposed in the housing, the septum having a proximal portion, a medial portion having an external surface and a cross section less than a cross section of the top portion and less than the cross section of the channel, and a distal portion defining a substantially elliptical cross section with a major axis and a minor axis in its unstressed condition;

a longitudinal slit extending through the septum from the proximal portion through the medial portion and into the distal portion; and

wherein the channel has a substantially circular cross section along at least a distal portion thereof and the distal portion of the septum is located in and restrained by ~~[[the]]~~ a distal portion of the channel such that the distal portion of the septum is biased into a substantially circular shape by the distal portion of the channel and a portion of the longitudinal slit in the distal portion of the septum is closed.

36. (Original) The needleless luer access connector of claim 35 wherein the longitudinal slit is defined by a pair of transversely extending walls of the septum which are parallel to a transverse axis of the slit and wherein the transverse axis of the slit is substantially aligned with the minor axis.

37. (Currently amended) The needleless luer access device of claim 36 wherein ~~at least~~ the portion of the slit ~~adjacent to the bottom~~ in the distal portion of the septum is open in the unstressed

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condition.

38-39. (Cancelled)